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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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Z U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "USA Food Basket...Spring of '46"--Information from Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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If---during the next three months--families in the United States cut down on the amount of food they eat....they'll do so because of the urgent need to share what they have with hungry people in other parts of the world....and not because the supply of most foodstuffs in this country is short.

In your own grocery shopping...very likely you've had no trouble finding eggs, milk, fish, citrus fruits, fresh vegetables, and such canned vegetables as corn, peas and snap beans. The U. S. Department of Agriculture tells us these foods are in good supply the country over.

Now it's true there isn't as much meat on the market this spring as there was during the winter months. The second quarter allocation provides about 33 pounds per person. This compares with approximately 37 pounds in the January-March period of this year. And with 29 pounds for the second quarter a year ago. Normal seasonal decreases in pork, lamb and mutton and heavy buying for use in relief feeding abroad account for this smaller second quarter allocation.

But with eggs and fish in abundant supply in all sections of the country and with poultry in good supply in many areas....our meals should not lack for proteins.

March through May is the seasonal high production time for eggs. Practically all storage eggs have been sold by now...so the eggs you're finding in the market these days have come directly from farms. Springtime eggs are generally of high quality because the weather is favorable for moving them from farm to market. The price is favorable too.

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As for fish...record supplies of both frozen and shellfish are on hand. And more fish are coming into major ports as the season moves on.

Potatoes, lettuce, carrots and spinach are plentiful at most markets. Chances are you can also find locally grown radishes, green onions, rhubarb and kale if you don't have some of these in your own Victory garden.

You can count on getting about the same share of sugar this spring you were able to get in the second quarter of 1945.

Although butter and margarine are in shorter supply than in 1945---as, of course, you know--fluid milk supplies will continue favorable.

Even as far as wheat prospects are concerned...you and your family will face no hardships. You'll be able to buy bread and cereals and flour. But since we have an abundance of other foods....most of us are willing to use less of these wheat products. The Famine Emergency Committee has asked us to cut down our use of wheat and bread and flour by 40 percent. There's a tremendous need for these products in other parts of the world where other foods are not plentiful as they are here.

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